



ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

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NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 2, 1983 at 8:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, West Crescent Avenue, Allendale.

PROGRAM: A presentation of slides from the Society's collection: "Allendale--Then and Now," illustrating changes that have taken place in the borough in this century. In addition, Joanne and Judy Bandstra will present the results of their research on "Old Houses of Allendale." The girls are working on this project for the library as part of their "Gold" award, the Girl Scout equivalent of the Boy Scout "Eagle" award; many hours of work have been spent working on it.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: We have contacted Dr. Cornell of the Brookside School in Allendale and we are sponsoring an essay contest for the children in the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. The essay subject will be "What Allendale Means to Me." The winner of the contest will receive a \$50.00 savings bond from the Allendale Historical Society. The deadline for the contest will be Thanksgiving, after which the winner will be judged. We are sponsoring this contest to celebrate the tricentennial celebration for Bergen County.

-----Dorothy Kornhoff

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ALLENDALE'S WORLD WAR II HONOR ROLL

In July 1942, the Allendale Holiday Observers appointed a group of men to serve on the Borough Honor Roll Committee, to work toward the construction of an Honor Roll of Allendale residents serving in the United States Armed Forces. By September of that year the following progress had been made: one of several proposed arrangements designed by W. J. Baarck, assisted by R. S. Haythorne, had been adopted. It had been decided that the Honor Roll would be erected on the vacant property on Allendale Avenue opposite the bank (corner of Maple St. and West Allendale Avenue, where Eva Schmitt's "Country Shop" now stands.) Dr. G. Pittis, owner of the vacant lot, had agreed to allow the committee to use the location.

The unveiling of the Honor Roll had been set for Sunday afternoon, October 18. Drawings of the Honor Roll were on display

in one of the store windows in town. The secretary-treasurer of the Holiday Observers, W. G. Z. Critchley, was accepting contributions toward the construction and maintenance of the Honor Roll. The list of men whose names would appear on the Honor Roll was being compiled by H. L. Bogardus. R. S. Haythorne, assisted by W. J. Baarck, were carrying out the construction of the Honor Roll, which was made of wood, painted white. The Allendale Garden Club was set to assist the committee in the landscaping work.

On Oct. 15, The Ramsey Journal printed the plans for the dedication: "Complete details for the dedication of Allendale's World War 2 Honor Roll on Sunday afternoon were released today by Howard Elschner, president of the Holiday Observers, sponsors. The affair will be held at 2:30 p.m. and will be attended by Gold Star Mothers, the families of Allendale's 98 men in service, and by local civic organizations and the general public.

"Speakers will be Mayor Louis A. Keidel, Allendale Draft Board Chairman Charles V. Bacon, and Major John G. Hubbard of Washington, D.C., formerly of Allendale. Ramsey High School band will play.

"The big board was moved to its position over the weekend and the site has been planted with evergreens. An anonymous friend has donated a flag for the pole erected in front of the roll.

"Invocation will be by the Rev. John H. Byrne, rector of the Guardian Angel R.C. Chapel. Boy and Girl Scouts will lead in a salute to the flag, and the band will play the "Star Spangled Banner." Boy and Girl Scouts, escorted by Legionnaires and Auxiliary members from Allendale Post 204 and its Unit, will unveil the Honor Roll. The band will play "America" while this is being done. There will be a prayer by the Rev. Herbert A. Sawyer of Archer Memorial Methodist Church.

"After the talks, Jack Strangfeld, who has two brothers in service, will lead the singing of "God Bless America." Benediction will follow.

"The committee is arranging seating accommodations for 250 persons. Legionnaires will act as ushers. Half of Allendale Avenue will be closed to traffic, and Maple Street will be closed.

"Mayor Keidel issued a proclamation last night calling attention to the importance of paying proper respect to the men who are fighting for the nation and urging large attendance by residents on Sunday. He asked that all flags be flown on that day."

Major John G. Hubbard, one of the speakers at the dedication, grew up in Allendale and served in World War I as well.

The Democratic candidate for sheriff of Bergen County happened to be passing at just the right moment--it is said that as the heavy board was being erected at the corner of West Allendale Avenue and Maple Street, he was passing, heard the call for a couple more men to help lift it into position, and took off his coat and went to work.

The dedication ceremony took place on Sunday, October 18, 1942, with the following servicemen's names on the Honor Roll.

James W. Abbott	Clinton E. Breads, Jr.	Louis Caputi, Jr.
Arthur H. Albert	Robert J. Bross	Thomas Caputi
David Berdan	Henry W. Cahill	David L. Ceely
Frank Berdan, Jr.	William L. Cahill	William S. Christian
Albert E. Bijou	Eugene G. Caputi	Thomas P. Conlon
Allan L. Bogardus	Joseph V. Caputi	Matthew S. Crinkley

Frank A. Dillon	Joseph F. Job	Richard K. Schmidt
George W. Dillon	Charles B. Johnson, Jr.	Harold W. Scott, Jr.
Raymond Dwyer	Edward F. Keen, Jr.	Steven Simon, Jr.
William T. Farley, Jr.	Albert Kish	Roland A. Steele
Richard Ehrhardt	Victor T. Krzymowski	E. Cooper Stone
Dennis Fallon	Louis B. Kubler, Jr.	Edward F. Strangfeld
Robert S. Finlay	Harry M. Lampa	William C. Strangfeld
Stanley P. Fisher, Jr.	S. Roger Mantell	Everett A. Straut, Jr.
James A. Fitzpatrick	Alvin F. McKee	Helen E. Steese
John P. Fitzpatrick	Wendell A. McKee	Arnold P. Taylor
Mark J. Fitzpatrick	Donald S. Mohan	A. Raymond Terwilliger
Michael F. Fitzpatrick	August D. Morando	Morton R. Terwilliger
Thomas A. Fitzpatrick, Jr.	J. Gibson Morrison	Louis E. Thurston
Robert J. Flanagan	Arvid H. Nyberg, Jr.	William R. Touw
Arthur B. Fowler, 3rd	Gaetano J. Oddo	Gilbert C. Turner
John J. Fox	Robert J. Osborne	Edward V. Unser
Archibald J. Gamble	Edward H. Owen	Kenneth L. Unser
George A. Gasparini	Louis F. Porter	Frederick M. Van Horn
Jack R. Harrow	Peter P. Pechhia	Kenneth A. Van Wagenen
Harold E. Heidrich	Oscar E. Peinecke	Carl Voorhis
Vernie W. Helard	Fred E. Price	Ralph Z. Wanamaker
Robert L. Hill	Charles J. Ritter	George C. Wehner
William B. Hill	Kenneth E. Roosa	Joseph A. Wenc
Frank O. Hough	Selig J. Ross	Charles A. Yeomans
John G. Hubbard	Albert O. Scafuro	Ellsworth E. Yeomans
A. Dean Jackson	Eugene E. Schefers	John I. Yeomans
Gill C. Job	E. Rudolph Scherb	

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40 YEARS AGO IN ALLENDALE AND VICINITY

World War II was the major news topic, and its effects were felt everywhere, as evidenced by these clips from The Ramsey Journal:

May 14, 1942--"Certificates for the purchasing of tires have been issued by the local rationing board of Allendale during the month of April to Borough of Allendale Water Department, John A. Pienken, Kurt Getzlaff, Robert W. Barr, John Bruggner, William D. Mowerson, George M. Wilson, Louis E. Rossner, and the Allendale Coal and Lumber Company. There were only two applications turned down, showing that generally citizens realize whether or not they are entitled to a share of the limited amount of available rubber during the national emergency."

June 25, 1942--"Recognizing the keen desire of civilian aircraft spotters to know what takes place at the other end of the telephone when they send in their "Army Flash, " the First Fighter Command, U. S. Army Air Corp has assigned a group of its men to visit each community and show, to all the ground observers, just what happens when the "Army Flash" message starts to cross the wires. A meeting has been arranged for Tuesday evening, June 30, at 8:30 p.m., in the auditorium of the Allendale Public School. Seating capacity is ample to provide accommodations for all spotters of Observation Post No. 236, and all other citizens who would like to know more about this vital service of our war program."

June 25, 1942--"RAMSEY--Scrap Rubber Given Here is 3,924 Pounds. Going around town the amount collected by the various garages and service stations up to Wednesday afternoon amounted to 3,924 pounds.

With several more days to come before the wind-up, twice this amount should be collected. The amounts collected to date are: McPeek's Garage, 600 pounds; Secor's Garage, 600 pounds; Weisberg's Garage, 300 pounds; Five Corners Garage, 700 pounds; Main Street Garage, 1,000 pounds; and Winter's Repair Shop, 724 pounds."

December 3, 1942--"Allendale has the honor of being the first community in New Jersey to reach the per capita quota set in the nationwide general salvage drive. Two thousand residents of the borough--according to an announced report of Francis McCrane, regional chairman for Bergen and Passaic counties, have collected 103 tons of iron and steel scrap for a mark of ten pounds per person, one pound more than the per capita quota. The total for Allendale may reach 150 tons by December 31, Mr. McCrane added, when the collections of paper and other salvage items are added to the iron and steel total. ...Allendale's figures cover the period from September 15 to Saturday. The total was announced by Burtis W. Griffith, salvage chairman for Allendale."

October 15, 1942--"The Ramsey Theatre will hold a special Scrap Matinee on Saturday, October 17th, at 10 a.m. for the purpose of collecting metal so vitally needed to supply our armed forces...."

April 22, 1943--"Allendale Is In Movie News Reel. News of the Day Newsreel, showing in first run theaters this week, has two scenes of Allendale. It shows that borough and the part it is playing in World War Number Two. There's a scene where Mayor Lyman A. Ceely is purchasing the first War Bond in the Second War Loan Drive. Other familiar persons appearing in it are Burtis W. Griffiths, War Bond chairman for this section; Allendale chairmen, Charles R. Vollaro, Thomas Brady, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fitzpatrick and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Caputi, who have given six sons each to the Army. There's an intimate home scene with Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Caputi pictured at the former's residence, 157 Park Avenue, Allendale. The mothers, their own War Bonds in hand, urge the theatregoers to buy bonds."

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"FIRST FAMILIES" OF ALLENDALE...Notes on early residents of Allendale
Compiled by Pat Wardell and vicinity

Compiler's Note: This alphabetical listing cannot be considered an all-inclusive list of prominent early residents. We invite any member or friend to write us to add information to any listing or to insert an omitted listing. We would welcome additional information for our files. These notes are being compiled using information at hand that has been accumulated over the years and we freely acknowledge that the lists, and the information, is far from complete. In general, it is our policy to list residents who were born or lived in Allendale and its vicinity before 1900, but there are a few exceptions for those with unusual or outstanding accomplishments or lengthy and dedicated service to Allendale.

Talman, Genevieve

The daughter of William C. Talman and Henrietta Louise Vreeland, she began teaching in Garfield and taught in the East Rutherford school system for more than 40 years, retiring as Principal of the Franklin School in East Rutherford. She died in April 1967.

Tallman, Herman

On March 16, 1868 Herman Tallman, with his wife Marie, and with his partners, Harvey and Charity Sherwood, bought a tract of land along both sides of Park Avenue from John A. Garrison and his wife, Dolly. This tract of land was subdivided into lots and one plot of land within the tract was set aside as a park--today's Memorial Park. Within a few years, homes were built on the subdivided plots, and by 1870, Tallman was engaged in the building of a hotel at Allendale.

Talman, William C.

The son of James Talman and Emma Louise Beekman, he was born November 3, 1861 in New York City, and died in April 1955. He married, in April 1894, Henrietta Louise Vreeland and they had children: M. Genevieve Talman and William V. Talman. William C. Talman was president of the Allendale Board of Education in 1900, vice-president of the Allendale Fire Association 1910-1911, and was a director and officer of the Orvil Building and Loan Association (later the Allendale Savings & Loan Association). Mrs. Talman worked as a volunteer for the Allendale Library Association, serving as an officer of the Association and as acting Librarian in 1921. Mrs. Talman died in 1933.

Taylor, Joseph B.

Born in Brooklyn about 1868, he was the son of Stoddart Taylor and Annie Victoria Greenwood. He graduated from Columbia University in 1888 with a degree in civil engineering. He later specialized in utilities. After graduation, he was commissioned a Lieutenant (J.G.) in the Naval Reserve.

He was employed first by the Westinghouse, Church & Kerr Co. of New York City, and later worked for W. F. Barstow Co. of New York. He was on the Board of Directors of the General Gas & Electric Co. He was a member of the University Club of New York City and the Columbia University Club and had been a member of the Union League.

Joseph B. Taylor married Charlotte Bossart Pitcher, and they had children: William R. Taylor, Arnold P. Taylor, Ethel Stoddart Taylor (who was an actress--see the September 1980 Allendale History and Heritage for an article about her and additional background information on the Taylor family), Ruth Taylor (m. Whiting Anthony), and Peggy Taylor (m. Robert Kohler). The family lived at 475 Franklin Turnpike. Mrs. Taylor died in 1939 and Mr. Taylor died on June 29, 1942.

Terhune, Abraham

Abraham Terhune was one of the signers of the January 1811 application and petition for road vacation of "The Shunpike" through Allendale (Road Return Book D, p. 239, Bergen County Courthouse).

Thomas, Edward

He was a charter member of the Allendale Fire Association.

Thomas, George R.

A house and sign painter, he was a charter member of the Allendale Fire Association. He was struck by a train and killed just above the Allendale station in December 1915.

Thomas, J. Parnell

Born January 16, 1895 in Jersey City, N.J., he was the son of John P. Feeney and Georgianna Thomas. His father, John P.

Feeney, was police commissioner of Jersey City and president of the Jersey City Police Board. He was also an adjuster for the North Jersey Railroad Company, and served in the New Jersey State Legislature for three terms. John P. Feeney died in 1905.

John Parnell Thomas attended the Allendale School, graduated from Ridgewood High School, and attended the University of Pennsylvania and New York Law School. He served in World War I. After the war, he had his name legally changed to his mother's maiden name, Thomas. From 1924 to 1938 he was manager of the bond department of Paine, Webber & Company of New York City. He was later associated with the insurance brokerage firm of Thomas & Godfrey of New York.

In Allendale, he was a director of the Allendale Building & Loan Association and a trustee of the Allendale Public Library. He was a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 1925 he was elected to the Allendale Borough Council, and served two terms as Mayor of Allendale, from 1926 to 1930. In 1937 he was elected to the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, a position he held until 1949.

He married, on January 21, 1921, Amelia Wilson Stiles, daughter of Mark D. Stiles. They had two sons: John P. Thomas, Jr. and Stiles Thomas.

John Parnell Thomas died in St. Petersburg, Florida on November 19, 1970.

Thompson, John H.

On November 1, 1793, John Fell sold his Petersfield Estate (including the property and house now standing at 475 Franklin Turnpike, Allendale) to John H. Thompson, a merchant of New York City, for 2,000 Pounds.

Thompson, Thomas

Thomas Thompson, "free colored male," is listed in the 1840 and 1850 Federal census. The family probably lived in the vicinity of Franklin Turnpike and Chestnut Street. Thomas Thompson and his wife, Jane, had three children: a daughter (name unknown), b. abt. 1830, and two sons, John Thompson, b. about 1845, and Samuel Thompson, b. about 1848.

Thurston, Henry W.

He and his wife, Sarah Jane, lived first in Saddle River and later in Allendale. They had children: a daughter, who m. S. T. Whitehead; and a son, Henry N. Thurston.

Thurston, Henry N.

The son of Henry W. and Sarah Jane Thurston, he operated the Allendale Garage, on Franklin Turnpike. He was a member of the Allendale Library Association. He and his wife, Meta A., had two sons: Frederick Thurston (d. 1953) and Lewis E. Thurston. Henry N. Thurston died in 1954, and Meta A. Bradshaw Thurston died in May, 1976.

Tomalin, Arthur

Active in local civic affairs, Arthur Tomalin served as president of the Allendale Library Association, was a member of the Allendale Board of Education, and was an advisor to the Publicity Committee of the Allendale Board of Trade. He began his career as a reporter on the Newark Evening News, eventually becoming managing editor. He then became publicity director for the

Central Railroad of New Jersey, editing the company's official publication. Next he became vice-president and manager of the Scranton (PA) Daily Tribune, and was later associate editor of "The Delineator" and editor of "The Designer." He then became managing editor of "The Pictorial Review." He and his wife had children: Paul Tomalin, Phillip Tomalin, Winifred Tomalin, and Doris Tomalin. Arthur Tomalin died in February 1930.

Tremaine, H. B.

H. B. Tremaine moved to Allendale from Saddle River about 1916, residing in the Ackerman-Shearman house on Franklin Turnpike (later known as Allendale Manor and the site of today's Allendale Nursery). He was associated with the American Woolen Company of New York City and Springfield, Mass. He was an enthusiastic golfer and lover of animals; his stables and kennels were noted over the United States. He died December 11, 1919

(to be continued)

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LOCAL COLOR

George C. "Rattlesnake Chet" Billings was probably one of the most colorful and unique characters in this vicinity in the early part of the twentieth century. He claimed descent from the famous King Philip, of the Wamaponoog Indian tribe and he lived the life of a full-blooded Indian, attempting to live as nearly as possible the life of his ancestors. He was a close student of nature, with a deep knowledge of birds, animals, the forest, the field, and the stream.

He earned his name of "Rattlesnake Chet" by the ease with which he handled deadly rattlesnakes and copperheads. Snake catching was one of his hobbies, and he made a practice of regularly searching for and capturing those deadly reptiles.

Billings, along with Frank T. Rufner, of Ramsey, and Dan Starr, of Suffern, was to have competed with other well-known snake catchers at the Bergen County Fair, scheduled to be held in Ho-Ho-Kus in the fall of 1915. A prize was offered to the man who could catch the largest number of rattlers, without any other equipment save his own hand and a bag. The snakes were to be released in a large wire cage which the contestants were to have entered singly.

On August 5, 1915, however, Billings died of a heart attack while swimming in the Ramapo River, near the old Governor Price estate in Mahwah. He had been sitting on the river bank with several acquaintances who were fishing, when he saw a turtle in the water and plunged in after it. He dived a second time, then floated face down in the water.

According to The Ramsey Journal, Dr. C. P. DeYoe was called to examine the body when it had been recovered from the river, and he gave the opinion that Billings had died of a heart attack.

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ALLENDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT...RECORDS OF EARLY CALLS TO FIRES (ABSTRACTED)

(continued from the February 1983 issue)

March 30, 1921--Alarm 1-4, telephone call; J. E. Simpson; used hose truck, Megnin driving. Left 5 p.m., returned 5:30 p.m.

June 15, 1921--Alarm 1-4, telephone call--barn of Mrs. J. Stuart; used hose truck, Megnin driving. Left 4:55, returned 5:30 p.m.

August 13, 1921--Waldwick, assistance asked for; Alarm 1-4, telephone call--house fire, F. Harris; used both trucks, Megnin and Ackerson driving. Left 12:15 a.m., returned 5:00 a.m.

October 1, 1921--Alarm 1-4, telephone call--Hutchinson's store house; used both trucks, Megnin and Ackerson driving. Left 11:30 a.m., returned 1 p.m.

October 3, 1921--Alarm 1-4, telephone call--Appert's; used both trucks, Megnin and Ackerson driving. Left 6:45 p.m., returned 8:15 p.m.

October 14, 1921--Alarm 1-4, telephone call--Kornhoff's; used both trucks, Megnin and Ackerson driving. Left 4:15 p.m., returned 4:50 p.m.

October 15, 1921--Alarm 1-4, telephone call--Webber's out buildings; used hose truck, Megnin driving. Left 10:25 a.m., returned 11 a.m.

(This ends this book of records; apparently one book is missing, because the next book of records begins with January, 1925.)

January 2, 1925--6:10 a.m.-6:30 a.m.; Crescent Avenue, field, J. Yeomans, owner. Cause: sparks, R.R.

March 12, 1925--3:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.; Turnpike, field, G. Nadler, owner; rubbish fire.

(to be continued)

We welcome the following new members to the Allendale Historical Society:

Mr. Edward Etesse of Peru, N.Y.

Mr. & Mrs. Blau of Allendale

Mr. & Mrs. Cherry of Allendale

REMINDER TO MEMBERS: 1983-84 dues are now payable; use the attached form to renew your membership. Thank you.

Allendale Historical Society
Officers and Chairmen, 1982-83

Allendale Historical Society
P.O. Box 294, Allendale, N.J. 07401

President.....Dorothy Kornhoff
Vice President.....Eva Schmitt
Treasurer.....Jeanne Cotz
Secretary.....Geneva Keating
Trustees.....Shirley Cross, Natalie
Holeman, Marian Strang-
feld, Harriet Grosman

Membership Categories: (Annual Dues)

Family membership.....\$6.00
Individual membership.....\$4.00

Publicity Chm.....
Librarian.....Dawn Dugas
Membership Chm.....Annette Baum
Newsletter Editor...Pat Wardell
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